

Declassified

Authority: 35942 By:
Britney Crawford Date:
04-08-2014

CONFIDENTIAL

December 29, 1948

SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

PALESTINE SITUATION - RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
NEUTRALITY ACT; REGISTRATION ACT
(Bureau file 97-2912)

31776

2-875-730

Re your confidential letter dated December 9, 1948 and captioned "Foundry Associates, Inc.; Neutrality Act, Fraud Against the Government, Conspiracy." Your attention is directed to the fact that the enclosure with referenced letter is identical with the enclosure forwarded your office in Bureau memorandum dated December 1, 1948 and bearing the caption of this memorandum. You should undertake the investigation as requested in Bureau memorandum of December 1 and report the results thereof in the case, "Palestine Situation - Recruitment Program; Neutrality Act; Registration Act." New York is the office of origin in this investigation and the Bureau is desirous of receiving 7 copies of all reports submitted. (C)

It will be necessary that the investigations pending in your office concerning the recruitment case and the Foundry Associates case be coordinated properly in order that information developed during the course of the investigation of the one case pertinent to the other will be included in reports covering the second. (C)

CC-New York

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

(CC Yellow in file 2-875)

WFOV:hhr

DATE 12-10-2011

CLASSIFIED BY 60267 UC/NLS/BTA/CW

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X3.3(1) 12-10-2029

DE-INDEXED

DATE 6-7-2016

31
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

DUPLICATE YELLOW

CONFIDENTIAL

62 JAN 7 1949

Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Los Angeles, California
December 9, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL

Director, F.B.I.

RE: FOUNDRY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Neutrality Act
Fraud Against the Government
Conspiracy

Dear Sir:

There is herewith enclosed one photostatic copy of a memorandum furnished this office by the Los Angeles Office of Naval Intelligence. The memorandum bears the title, "Haganah--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel."

The information contained herein pertains to the above captioned case.

CC: Newark, Air Mail - Encl.
New York, Air Mail-Encl.

ENCL.
2-86
BMP:MCW

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD
SAC

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 97-2915-346

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 12-10-2004
CLASSIFIED BY: 60267 UC/MJS/BSM/CLM
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X3.3(1) 12-10-2022

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104-48

DIC-111B

San Diego, Calif.

4 October

48

DIC-111B Conf WHI-96 rpt dtd 27 July 1948, Ser 91-48; subj: Panama-Palestine Airline, further information re.

Conversations with confidential informants.

C-3

* SAGANAH--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

BRIEF:

Persons prominent in local activities of SERVICE AIRWAYS (Israeli Front) address telephone inquiry to U.S. Marine Corps warrant officer regarding availability of surplus USMC tanks. First lieutenant, USMC, actively engaged in recruiting USMC tank personnel for service with SAGANAH; recruit interviews conducted in "secret" Hollywood office by SAGANAH representatives connected with motion picture industry. Rates of pay and contract arrangements cited. Walter WINGFIELD and Bernard M. BARUCH mentioned as sponsors of the project. Recruiter with two recruits en route to Tel Aviv via Rome, Italy, turned back at New York by purported FBI agents. Recruiter borrows quantity of USMC tank training films and manuals; has photographs made of USMC tank training terrain, Camp Pendleton, California; latter possibly connected with unsolved Pendleton theft of USMC ammunition and field telephones. Recruiter possibly eligible for disciplinary action under Navy Court Martial Order No. 10-1947.

REPORT:

The interviews and inquiries upon which this report is based had their inception in the following information received from the local office of another U.S. Government investigative agency:

At 1800, 3 July 1948, Reynold GELB, a prominent figure in the various activities of SERVICE AIRWAYS (see page 8 of reference (a)), conferred with Bernard FISHERMAN and a third individual at FISHERMAN's "secret" office, 136 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California. FISHERMAN (also mentioned on page 8 of reference (a) as one of six persons most active in the affairs of SERVICE AIRWAYS) has lately been identified as the following person:

* Bernard Powell FISHERMAN (aka: Bernice FISHERMAN)
1720 West Vista, Hollywood, California
Social Security No. 549-18-0601
Has "secret" office (address given above)

WHI(Original & Master Dittos); DIC-14; FBI-SD.

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DIO-1112 Serial 104-48

4 October 1948

Subject: HAGANAH--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

Was 2nd Lieut., U.S. Army Tank Corps, WW II
Is a producer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture studio
Born 3/23/25, New York City
Parents both born in Russia.

FINEMAN, further, is referred to by competent authority as "money bags", and "one of the brains" behind the procuring of U.S. material for the Jewish forces in Palestine.

The object of the above-mentioned conference was to discuss ways and means of acquiring certain armored tanks for service in Palestine. The tanks in question, some thirty-six in number, and categorized as surplus, are located at the U.S. Marine Corps Storage and Repair Depot, Barstow, California. During the conference, frequent references were made to "Charlie", believed to be Charles CHAPLIN, the motion picture actor. Apparently "Charlie" had to be consulted on both the financial aspect and the general advisability of the proposed acquisition. Also consulted were numerous U.S. Army publications on tank specifications, which FINEMAN obtained from his locked files; and at one point, FINEMAN placed a telephone call to the U.S. Marine Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, asking first for one "Hal" BARKER, then one Major Abe BOREM (phonetic), and finally, on being told that neither of these two individuals was available, for "Colonel SORENSON" on extension 400.

(Note: The Eleventh Naval District telephone directory lists the following SORENSON with a telephone extension of 400: SORENSON, C. WO Asst Insp-Instr Asst 17 11th RecTkn USMC MCB SD J-6121 Ext 400.)

FINEMAN, on being put through to SORENSON, asked the latter, with whom he seemed to be very well acquainted, to find out certain details concerning the tanks at Barstow; and approximately half an hour later, SORENSON, having volunteered to call the Marine Depot at Barstow, returned FINEMAN's call and gave FINEMAN the desired data.

Subsequently, during the conference, FINEMAN stated that the tanks, if purchased, would be loaded on a barge, or barges, and that he would get them to Palestine somehow. The inference was that this would be a clandestine export; but no explanation was made as to how thirty-six armored tanks could be moved surreptitiously.

Upon receipt of the above information, it was deemed advisable by this office to make some inquiry concerning SORENSON as a presumably active member of the U.S. Marine Corps; and as a result, the following incidental information was developed concerning the local activities of HAGANAH:

From Source "A" it was learned that during the past several months, SORENSON (who is in fact a warrant officer and not a colonel, though there is some indication that he may have been nicknamed "Colonel" by his intimates) has been visited a number of times on his duty station by one Harold (Hal) W. BARKER, 1st Lieut., USMC (Inactive), #029142, of 4879 Camrose Drive, Hollywood, California. BARKER, according to Source "A", who got his information from SORENSON, is a free-lance Hollywood extra whose screen name is Greg MARTON, and whose only cinema performance of any note was achieved in the film, "Tank at Oxford". Source "A" also learned from SORENSON that BARKER is employed by certain members of the Hollywood motion picture industry who are, in addition, HAGANAH representatives; and that during his frequent visits to San Diego (always made by commercial air), BARKER has, under the terms of his employment, contacted numerous Marine Corps personnel in an effort to recruit them for duty with HAGANAH. His main effort in this respect appears to have centered on active and inactive Marine Corps tankers.

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CONFIDENTIAL

SD-1112 Serial 104-48

4 October 1948

Subject: HAGAN--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

of which there are many in the San Diego area, since Marine Corps tank personnel are believed to have the unique distinction of being trained to service and maintain, as well as operate, their own tanks. The extent of BARKER's success in this endeavor is not known.

What is known, however, is his mode of operating. This has been described by Source "B", who states that one evening, on or about 10 July 1948, when he was a "short-timer" in the Marine Corps, he received a telephone call at San Diego, from "Hal" BARKER in Beverly Hills, California, asking if he wanted a job. BARKER stated at the time that he could not say too much about it over the telephone, but that he had talked to several other members of the "old outfit" who were interested, and that he would be in San Diego later on to discuss the matter further.

On 11 July 1948, according to Source "B", BARKER again telephoned him, this time from San Diego, and arranged a meeting which took place the same day when BARKER arrived on the Marine Corps station, San Diego, at noon, driving what appeared to be CORSEY's 1948 Ford coupe, and took Source "B" to a drug store across the street from the base. There BARKER enlarged on the proffered job, explaining that it was not really a combat proposition, that it amounted to nothing more than training tankers for HAGAN, and that there would be \$350.00 a month in it for Source "B". This led to an arrangement whereby the negotiations would be continued in Los Angeles.

Accordingly, in the late afternoon of 16 July 1948, Source "B" went to Los Angeles by train, and eventually met BARKER in the lobby of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood. Shortly thereafter, they were joined by another member of the "old outfit", an Ex-Marine, hereinafter referred to as Sergeant M., who had just arrived from San Francisco. The three then had several drinks together, and later had a steak dinner in a good class restaurant in a side street near Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, not far from the well-known Grauman's Chinese (motion picture theatre).

Following the dinner, the trio drove in BARKER's 1939 Dodge coupe to an office building at 135 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, and went to the 7th floor to a suite of offices occupied by FINEMAN. BARKER left Source "B" and Sergeant M. sitting in an outer office with two other recruits, both Jewish but otherwise unidentified, while he conferred with FINEMAN. The Jewish recruits were then interviewed, privately and separately, followed by Sergeant M., and finally Source "B" was called to the inner office and introduced to FINEMAN, "who seemed to be the big boy with the money".

The upshot of this interview was that FINEMAN, after confirming BARKER's previous outline of the proposition, offered Source "B" \$500.00 per month on a four months' contract basis, with option of renewal and with two months' pay in advance, if desired. Source "B" was told that he would be flown first to New York for three weeks' training with an interpreter, and then to Rome, Italy, all expenses paid. He states, however, that while Sergeant M. accepted the terms of a similar offer and signed up, he, after several days of deliberation, decided against the proposal and has since had no further contact with BARKER. His interview with FINEMAN was concluded by the latter's asking BARKER how the two Marines were off for spending money; and on being told that they were "pretty low", FINEMAN presented each of the pair with \$20.00, plus the cost of their dinner and drinks.

A slight variation of the above took place in the case of Source "C" who likewise had been approached in San Diego by BARKER, and had decided to take advantage of a free trip to Los Angeles to see what it was all about.

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CONFIDENTIAL

DIO-11ND Serial 106-48

4 October 1948

Subject: BAKKER--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

Source "C" is an ex-Marine who, following his discharge from the service, became an insurance salesman, and at the time of his contact with BAKKER was not making much of a success in his new work.

He relates that on 9 July 1948 at San Diego, he received the following telegram (which is now held by this office): "CALL ME COLLECT SATURDAY ABOUT 1030 AT BRADSHAW 2-3929 BEVERLY HILLS /a/ HAL BAKKER". Complying with this wire, he telephoned BAKKER who invited him to Los Angeles, stipulating that all expenses would be paid for him at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel while being interviewed for a job. Accepting this invitation, Source "C", accompanied by his wife (also taking advantage of a free trip), went to Los Angeles on 17 July 1948 and took a room on the 4th floor of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Here he was later called upon by BAKKER who explained the nature of the job (same as proposed to Source "S"), but with the added interesting statement that: "Walter WINCHELL and Bernard BARUCH are promoting the deal". (Note: Bernard B. BARUCH is known to have been in Los Angeles recently.)

Later the same day, Source "C" was interviewed in Room 1030 of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel (the entire tenth floor of which, he states, appeared to be occupied by persons connected in one way or another with BAKKER) by a Major BUSH (phonetic), probably identical with the individual of the same name cited in paragraph 2, above, whom Source "C" describes as 6' 2", 220 lbs., 38 years old, black hair, Jewish appearance, heavy build; ex-major of a U.S. Third Army tank battalion, WW II. Also present during the interview was a small man of non-Jewish appearance who was introduced as "a high-ranking officer of the Jewish Navy", a title that may have been borne out by a British-type, naval battle-dress with strange insignia, which Source "C" noted hanging in the room at the time.

This interview was terminated rather abruptly, however, when Source "C" apparently gave the wrong answer to a question by stating that his sole interest in the proposition was strictly one of money. This statement, accompanied by an impulsive and unmistakable gesture with his hands, resulted in his being told that before the negotiations could proceed any further he would have to be interviewed by a Mr. FINEMAN, but that Mr. FINEMAN, unfortunately, had just flown east and no one knew when he would be back. To date, according to Source "C", he has had no further word from BAKKER.

In his search for names and addresses of Marines who might thus be exposed to BAKKER inducements, BAKKER, besides availing himself of SCHENCK's services, is known to have approached a 2nd Lt. HUNTER, USMC, Officer-in-Charge in Use Accounts, Camp Pendleton, California (currently awaiting hearing in connection with possible shortage in accounts), and a Sergeant LITCHFIELD, USMC, Instructor, Signal School, Camp Del Mar, California. In HUNTER's case, BAKKER asked for names and addresses of former buddies, stating that he was anxious to get such men for parts in a motion picture in which he hoped to star, and which was entitled, "To the Shores of Iwo Jima". He neglected to inform HUNTER, however, that the picture had already been completed. In Sergeant LITCHFIELD's case, no explanation was offered. BAKKER merely asked LITCHFIELD to get him the names of all of their old buddies who still were on active duty, and to get the information as soon as possible. LITCHFIELD was told to call Bradshaw 2-3929 (Beverly Hills) during business hours, and to reverse the charges; which he did when providing BAKKER with the names and addresses of ten Staff SGT's, all members of the 8th Tank Battalion.

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DIG-1182 Serial 108-48

4 October 1948

Subject: BARBER--Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the
Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

BARBER turned up in another role when, on or about 1 August 1948, he let it be known to several of his acquaintances that he was on his way to Italy, on a monthly salary of \$750.00, plus expenses, to instruct Israeli tankers in tank tactics and maintenance. But on 11 August 1948, he reappeared in San Diego, in uniform, on two weeks' active training duty with the local Marine contingent. One of his acquaintances, Source "A", on expressing surprise at seeing him back so soon, was told by BARBER that "a couple of bright boys", indicating FBI Agents, had met his plane on arrival at New York and had informed him that they knew what he had been doing, where he was going, and what he intended to do; and that while they had no intention of stopping him, they were warning him that when and if he returned to the United States, any professed ignorance of the law on his part would not be an acceptable excuse. This, explained BARBER, naturally caused him to cancel his trip to Italy.

SCHERSON has elaborated on the above episode by stating that FBI agents called at BARBER's Hollywood home just after he had left by plane for New York (Note: This has been denied by the local FBI office.), but that they caught up with him during a short stop at a Chicago airport, and caught him out again at New York, as described above, to give him a thorough briefing on the provisions of laws relating to neutrality.

SCHERSON has also stated that BARBER's projected tour called for three weeks' attendance at a school located somewhere in New York, in company with Sergeant M. and one CHIE (fow), another ex-Marine recruited by BARBER, following which the three would fly to Tel Aviv, via London, Paris and Rome; and that at Tel Aviv BARBER was committed to spending at least four months instructing neophyte MAGANAH tankers. In SCHERSON's opinion, BARBER believed that all this would place him in a favorable light with the Hollywood action picture-MAGANAH group, and thus further his ambitions to become a film star; but SCHERSON also advises that BARBER received \$150.00 as payment in full for the completed portion of his abortive trip to Italy.

In still another role, BARBER shows up as an ardent collector of training manuals, maintenance manuals, publications on tank tactics, as well as photographs and maps of combat training areas of the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps reservation. According to SCHERSON (in whom little confidence is to be placed), the manuals and publications were obtained on a loan basis by BARBER from Lt. Col. W. R. COLLINS, USMC, who was relieved as CO, 11th Reserve Tank Battalion on 30 June 1948, and transferred to duty at Quantico, Virginia. SCHERSON states that Lt. Col. COLLINS loaned this material to BARBER in good faith, but without inquiring as to its ultimate purpose, though he did institute its immediate recall on learning of BARBER's connections with MAGANAH. SCHERSON, himself, was responsible for the loan of the training films. Some of the material, it appears, was not returned as promptly as it might have been; and whether or not all of it has been properly accounted for seems not to be known. There is little reason not to assume, however, that most, if not all, of it was at some time made available through BARBER to his Hollywood MAGANAH friends. Nor is it unreasonable to suppose that the latter, with the best of photographic facilities and talent readily at their disposal, copied or otherwise reproduced whatever part of it interested them, for future reference and possibly export.

As regards the photographs of Camp Pendleton training areas, these were made by the aforementioned 1st Lt. HUNTER, with the latter's own camera, and at BARBER's specific request. HUNTER admits to having photographed certain sections of Pendleton's tank training terrain designated by BARBER, and to have included a shot of a highly distinctive cliff located near the isolated Rifle Range #3 in the back hills of the reservation. The latter may or may not have had any connection with the still unsolved and sizable (1250 lb.) theft